

FUNDAÇÃO ROCKEFELLER
DIVISÃO SANITÁRIA INTERNACIONAL
RIO DE JANEIRO, BRASIL

AIR. MAIL

Fortaleza, Ceará, Brazil.
July 21, 1937.

Dearest Margaret,

I suppose this will be my last letter from here, as I should be on the next air-mail myself. Dr. Soper & Dr. Paul, Dr. Gordilho, and I have just completed a long trip through the interior of Pernambuco and Ceará. We went in at Recife and came out in Fortaleza. How good it does seem to have a private shower bath! We slept in hammocks throughout the trip. We rode in automobiles, on a rail car, and for a short distance on a train. We have eaten armadillo, wild duck, dried beef, canned things, and hundreds of eggs. Nothing seemed to hurt us.

Way in the interior we met an engineer who had found some fossil fish while digging for water, and he gave me one. I will bring it to Billy if it is not too heavy for the plane.

At Jaguio we ~~were~~ called on Padre Cic.,

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an old priest who was twice Vice-President of the State and once headed a sort of rebellion against the government. People go on long pilgrimages to see him at his home in Soazero far in the interior. He was 90 years old, but very alert and clear in his mind. On our return here we learned that he had died. He was always a supporter of the yellow fever work, which was important for us as his influence in southern Brazil is very great. On his verandah he had an anvil bird, which sang while we were trying to talk. Its song is the same as that which would be produced by striking an anvil as hard as possible with a 20-lb. sledge. It was evidently intended to be heard at a distance of two miles.

I should get my mail in São Paulo in a couple of days. We are, ^{almost} completely isolated here. Dr. Sykes received a telegram that Mrs. Sykes had been operated on in Karsa, and was convalescing satisfactorily. It was all news to him.

Love,